

# Revelation 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

## Analysis

The second beast exercises the first beast's authority, promoting emperor worship. This represents false religious systems supporting tyrannical political power. The phrase 'causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship' shows how religious deception serves state idolatry. Reformed theology recognizes the danger when church and state merge in promoting false worship. The healing of the deadly wound (v. 3) that amazes the world demonstrates how Satan counterfeits Christ's resurrection to deceive. All authority ultimately derives from God, but here is usurped for Satanic purposes.

## Historical Context

The imperial cult in Asia Minor required emperor worship, enforced by local priests and officials. The 'second beast' (false prophet, 16:13) represents religious authorities promoting state idolatry. Economic and social pressure compelled participation. This vision warned Christians that religious systems endorsing state worship are Satanic, regardless of apparent legitimacy or tradition.

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How can you discern when religious authorities promote worship of earthly powers rather than Christ alone?
2. What modern systems combine political authority with religious endorsement to pressure conformity to ungodly standards?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ τὴν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ πρῶτον θηρίον πᾶσαν ποιεῖ  
**And** G3588 **the power** G1849 **of the first** G4413 **beast** G2342 **all** G3956 **causeth** G4160  
G2532

ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ καὶ ποιεῖ τὴν γῆν καὶ τοὺς  
**before** **him** **And** **causeth** G3588 **the earth** **And** G3588  
G1799 G846 G2532 G4160 G1093 G2532

κατοικοῦντας ἐν αὐτοῦ ἵνα προσκυνήσωσιν τὸ  
**them which dwell** **therein** **him** **to** **worship** G3588  
G2730 G1722 G846 G2443 G4352

θηρίον τὸ πρῶτον οὗ ἐθεραπεύθη ἡ πληγὴ τοῦ  
**beast** G3588 **of the first** G4413 **whose** G3739 **was healed** G2323 **wound** G4127 **G3588**  
G2342

θανάτου αὐτοῦ  
**deadly** **him**  
G2288 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 14:9** (Worship): And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

**Revelation 19:20** (Worship): And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

**Revelation 14:11** (Worship): And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4** (Worship): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

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